THE OREDIGGER NEWSPAPER

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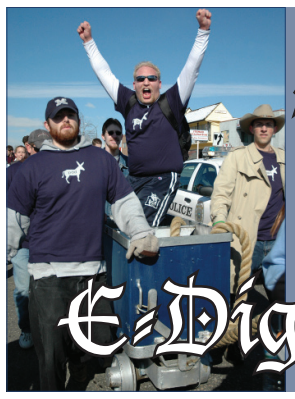

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Dr. Peter Gleick discusses the water crisis and peak water

Tim Weilert
Content Manager

Dr. Peter H. Gleick is considered to be an authority on issues of water. As the co-founder and president of the Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment, and Security, Gleick has devoted his research efforts to understanding the impact of water upon society and the environment. Dr. Gleick came to campus last week as part of the distinguished Young Environmental Symposium.

Gleick's presentation covered four main areas: the water crisis, peak water, China's water situation, and soft-path solutions. "The truth is we don't have a lot of water on this planet in terms of total volume," began Gleick, "and the fresh water we have is often inaccessible to us."

Gleick proceeded to cover the first area of discussion: the water crisis. "We still today have many of the same kinds of problems that we've dealt with for centuries. At the same time we have new challenges coming down the road." Infrastructure, wastewater, and irrigation were among the examples given to show the current state of global water.

"There are good things and there are bad things associated with the hard-path, infrastructure approach to water problems. What do I mean by 'the water crisis?'" asked Gleick. "The failure to meet basic human needs for water. There are still a billion people worldwide that don't have access to safe drinking water. Two and a half billion people don't have access to adequate sanitation services. This is the greatest failure of the twentieth century." Water-related diseases and preventable deaths result as an extension of this crisis.

Distribution infrastructure problems and water-scarcity and quality feed directly into economic and ecological issues. "There are a whole series of ecological challenges, such as climate change. The hydrologic cycle is the climate cycle. As we change the climate we fundamentally change hydrology." A variety of changes, such as rain patterns and storm formation were given as examples of impact from the change in climate. "Everything we do requires water. We've seen increasing competition among users for the water humans use from the hydrologic cycle." Ecologic issues, such as rivers running dry and the rechanneling of the Everglades and the political implications were also discussed.

Gleick then discussed peak water using three different graphs. An exponential curve was given as an illustration of population, GDP, economy, etc. A peak curve illustrated peak oil and fish harvests, while a logistic curve represented technology. "Up until about 1980, the withdrawal of water grew exponentially with the population and economy. The assumption that water use grows exponentially with these factors underlies our water policy. Around 1980, the demand for water leveled off, in fact, we use no more water today than we used 20 years ago in the United States. Per capita we use a lot less water than we did in 1980."

Gleick used a comparison of oil and water to further illustrate his idea of peak water. Characteristics such as quantity, renewability, transportability, and substitutions were used to show that water exists as a unique substance. Water, according to Gleick, is both renewable and non-renewable. Flows and stocks limit water sources, depending on the area. "Overall water is a renewable resource, but there are some non-renewable sources. This is important from a policy standpoint." Fossil ground water aquifers are considered to be stock limited, while other sources are flow limited. The concern then, is quantifying the ecological and economic impacts of depleting such stock resources.

Moving into a case study, Gleick discussed the Chinese water problem. "Villages are digging wells that are 100 to 200 meters deep now, when they could find drinking water at 20 to 30 meters a decade ago. Companies are cancelling business ventures in China because there is either not enough water or it is low quality." The overuse and mismanagement of water in China has lead to health issues and ecological damage. Gleick recognized that Chinese scientists are well equipped with information, but have been forced to make tough decisions about infrastructure.

Finally, Gleick covered his solution: the soft-path. "The objective of the soft-path of water is to deliver the services and benefits of water. The purpose of the hard-path for water is to deliver water. However we don't want to use water. We want food, goods, and services and waste removal. If we think about what we want, but think about providing them while producing less waste water, a variety of options present themselves." Gleick suggested that infrastructure should be built to better standards, and community involvement should be more emphasized.

PATRICK BESEDA / OREDIGGER

Dr. Gleick is an authority on water issues. He presented to the Young Environmental Symposium last week.

Custodial appreciation

Benjamin Johnson
Staff Writer

"It all started with an idea to serve the campus, so we thought, custodians serve the campus all the time so let's serve them," reflected Liz Kirby, who formulated the idea of a campus wide custodian appreciation day. On April 23, there will be a full lunch provided from noon until about 2:00 PM at the Coolbaugh House for the custodial staff that serves Mines. There will be hamburgers and brats provided for the lunch but chips and dip, cookies, beans, fruit, and refreshments will all be provided by thankful Mines students and faculty who want to help provide a special day for those who usually do not get much recognition. There will be a table in the student center the week before the event where food, plates, and silverware can be dropped off.

Giving food is not the only way that people can help. "Anyone can stop by and serve," said Kirby. Essential needs include setup, teardown, and cooking. Acknowledging the work the custodians accomplish is the primary goal Kirby had for the day, "I think it would be sweet to have a bunch of students at Mines say thank you because a lot of times they can be under appreciated." Kirby also wanted all students, staff, and faculty, particularly the custodians, to know that "what they do is really important to the campus."

Along with the help of Jenny Mac, Andrea King, and Kylie Taylor, Kirby thought that having a custodian appreciation day would change the perception people have at Mines. She wanted people to understand that Mines' students are not simply school obsessed, homework junkies, but that they are capable and willing to be a part of the larger community on campus and to be involved in various activities as well as notice the tremendously important but often overlooked details that make Mines a beautiful place to be educated.

The continuation of this event in future years was also important to Kirby. "I think it would be a unique experience for them," she said. Kirby also wanted everyone to "be more conscious about picking up after ourselves and be more considerate to the custodians" throughout the year. She said that this would be a sign of true appreciation for the custodians and the work that they do. Another suggestion made by Kirby was that "it would be nice if every student went out of their way to say thank you to them," not only on April 23, but whenever students see them on campus.

AISES holds powwow

Tim Weilert
Content Manager

Food, dance, and culture. These three items were in abundance at the second annual David Nelson Friendship Powwow, which was held in Steinhauer Fieldhouse last Friday. Visitors to the event enjoyed delicious Navajo frybread tacos and could support local Native American artists who were selling their goods at the powwow. Everything from blankets and t-shirts to beads and jewelry were available.

Chairs were set up in a giant circle at the powwow, with dancing taking place in the center. A variety of tribal songs and dances took place, with audience participation at several points throughout the evening. Perhaps one of the more entertaining dances was the "Potato Dance," in which partners had to dance to the beat while keeping a potato between their heads. Other dances included a "tiny tot" dance with children in traditional costume taking center ring.

Overall, the event was a wonderful display of Native American culture, giving Mines students an opportunity to learn more about the indigenous people of North America while enjoying food and fellowship.

For more pictures, go to orediggernet.

PATRICK BESEDA / OREDIGGER

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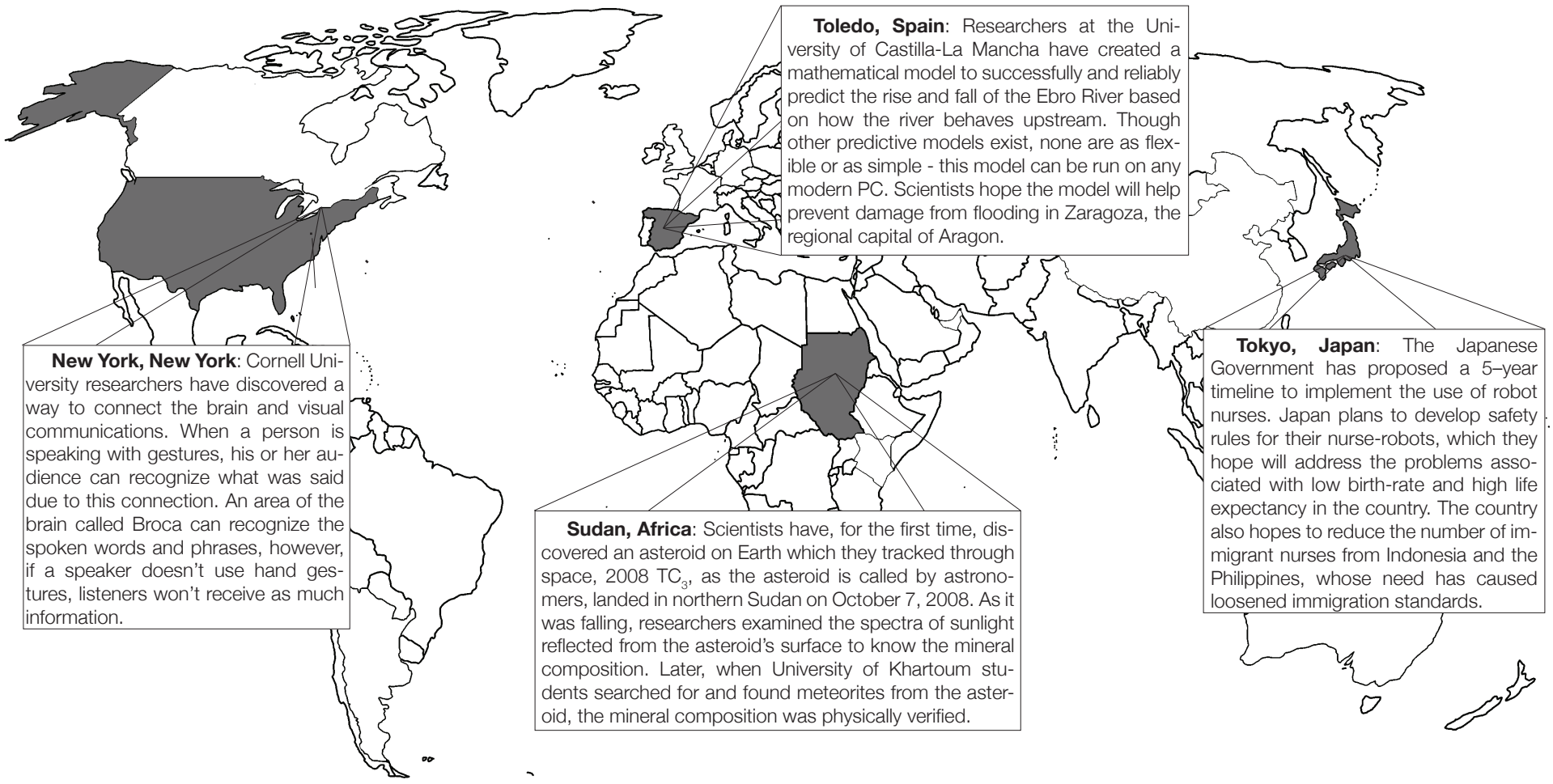
Scientific discoveries this week

Anand Erdenebileg, Staff Writer



New York, New York: Cornell University researchers have discovered a way to connect the brain and visual communications. When a person is speaking with gestures, his or her audience can recognize what was said due to this connection. An area of the brain called Broca can recognize the spoken words and phrases, however, if a speaker doesn't use hand gestures, listeners won't receive as much information.

Toledo, Spain: Researchers at the University of Castilla-La Mancha have created a mathematical model to successfully and reliably predict the rise and fall of the Ebro River based on how the river behaves upstream. Though other predictive models exist, none are as flexible or as simple - this model can be run on any modern PC. Scientists hope the model will help prevent damage from flooding in Zaragoza, the regional capital of Aragon.

Sudan, Africa: Scientists have, for the first time, discovered an asteroid on Earth which they tracked through space, 2008 TC_3, as the asteroid is called by astronomers, landed in northern Sudan on October 7, 2008. As it was falling, researchers examined the spectra of sunlight reflected from the asteroid's surface to know the mineral composition. Later, when University of Khartoum students searched for and found meteorites from the asteroid, the mineral composition was physically verified.

Tokyo, Japan: The Japanese Government has proposed a 5–year timeline to implement the use of robot nurses. Japan plans to develop safety rules for their nurse-robots, which they hope will address the problems associated with low birth-rate and high life expectancy in the country. The country also hopes to reduce the number of immigrant nurses from Indonesia and the Philippines, whose need has caused loosened immigration standards.

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Headlines from around the world

Emily Trudell, Staff Writer

Researchers at the University of Toronto and the University of Cambridge uncovered a massive computer-based spying system, calling it **GhostNet**. The Chinese-based system has been used to infiltrate and infect computers in several nations and foreign embassies internationally.

Legendary skier and **BASE jumper** Shane McConkey, age 39, was killed during an accident while filming a ski-BASE jump off of a cliff in the Italian Dolomites. McConkey died upon impact after the wing suit of his parachute failed to open properly.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio **Lula da Silva** criticized "white people with blue eyes" for the current financial crisis, in reference to the United States and European Union. Further, Lula da Silva argued that tariffs on products from less developed countries have kept such countries poor.

The world's largest egg was sold at the Chelsea Antiques Fair in London for $7,340. The rare egg, which has a three foot circumference, was laid in the 1600's by the now extinct **Great Elephant Bird** of Madagascar.

A **suicide bomber** in Pakistan destroyed a mosque near the Afghan border and killed at least 48 people who were attending prayers at the mosque; several more worshippers were injured. This was the bloodiest suicide attack this year.

British TV journalist Ben Fogle, age 35, was informed that more chemotherapy will be required to kill the **flesh eating bacteria** he contracted in Peru nearly a year ago. Fogle believes he contracted the bacteria after being bitten by a sand fly while filming in the Peruvian jungle.

An Iranian research team found that the consumption of beverages that are above 160 degrees Fahrenheit caused an eight fold increase in risk for **throat cancers**. The team followed the hot beverage consumption of three hundred people with throat cancers, and nearly six hundred healthy people.

Residents in **Fargo, North Dakota** were urged to leave their homes as the Red River rose past its highest level in recorded history. Hospitals and nursing homes have sent patients to hospitals on higher ground, and makeshift levees have been put up around neighborhoods.

Secretary of State **Hilary Clinton** visited Mexico to discuss drug problems in the area and show US support. Clinton met with Mexican officials in an effort to help fight organized crime in the region.

The United Kingdom is considering changing their **Bill of Rights** to end the prohibition of monarchs from marrying Catholics. This ban was first established in 1688, and is considered to be one of the only remaining discriminatory laws in the UK.

The **World Wildlife Fund** urged the world to turn off all devices that require power for one hour over the weekend in an effort to spread awareness about the Global Warming.

The Texas Board of Education has approved the teaching of **evolution** as an unproven theory, inviting teachers to raise doubts about evolution. Some evolutionary science textbooks have already been changed to have vaguer descriptions of times, describing an ice age as occurring "in the distant past" instead of "millions of years ago."

An ash cloud exploded upwards over 50,000 feet after Alaska's **Mount Redoubt volcano** continued erupting. The volcano has not erupted since a four month period in 1990.

Local News

Nathan Hancock recently received one of two best paper presentation awards, which included a plaque and $1,500 for his proceeding paper and oral presentation at the American Water Works Association Membrane Technology Conference in Memphis. The title of Nathan's paper was: "Novel Performance Modeling of Forward Osmosis–Reverse Osmosis Integrated System."

E-Days Ticket Sales! Full packets, which include a t-shirt, commemorative glass, a ticket to the concert, and a ticket to the comedian are $25.00 with a two (2) packet maximum per student. Concert tickets are $15.00 with a five (5) ticket maximum per student. A t-shirt and commemorative glass combined is $10.00 and a comedy show ticket is $5.00. Other special events include: SCVNGR - a cell-phone based scavenger hunt! Sign up your team at ticket sales! (Student Center Lobby)

ASCSM Elections are March 30-31 on trailhead.mines.edu.

The Beta Theta Pi fraternity raised $2,000 for the St. Anthony's Helmet Donor Program with their annual Ski-a-thon fundraiser. Proceeds will go to the ORC to purchase helmets to rent out with ski equipment.

Physics Colloquium

Spencer Nelson
Content Manager

Standing in front of a room full of physicists, Dr. Ilya Grigorenko calmly changed his slides, going from an animate birthday cake to a screen black with equations representing multiple quantum properties of a molecule. Although this transition may not seem logical, Grigorenko links baking and chemistry quite intimately in his overarching theme to last Tuesday's Physics Colloquium. The question posed was, "Can we write down the recipe if we have the cake?"

"Today I am going to talk about quantum design," started Grigorenko, completely disregarding his introduction concerning cake. However, the analogy soon became clear as Grigorenko explained the difference between a direct problem and an inverse problem.

Grigorenko summarized what a direct problem is with a story. "You got the recipe of a very nice cake from... a friend, and you follow all the directions of this recipe. We use some device, like an oven. If you do it very carefully, you can bake a cake. This is an example of a direct problem." A direct problem uses a set of instructions to come to an end product.

An inverse problem starts with the end product and works backwards to discover the way it was made. Using the cake analogy further, it is like taking a cake and finding the recipe. The most obvious way to make this happen is to make a guess and adapt it using intuition until the end product is identical to the original cake.

Connecting the cake with the quantum mechanics, Grigorenko gave a flowchart of an inverse problem, "Start from some desired physical property... and you would like to discover the original Hamiltonian, which gives it this property." Basically, this process breaks down a physical property of a substance to the fundamental molecular properties.

Ideally, this procedure starts with a desired functionality, which leads through trial and error to eigenvalues and eigenfunctions of Hamiltonians, which leads to actual atoms. This can be applied in several ways. In the case of data, a study done by Stanford University used this method to write the letters "S" and "U" with CO molecules on a tiny scale. This procedure allowed Stanford to set a record for data encoding with a density of roughly 20 bits per square nanometer. Successes like this bring Grigorenko to the hopeful conclusion of the viability of the inverse method, "The question then is, 'Can we do it?' The answer is 'yes.'"

Another application of this method is the design of single-molecule detectors. By optimizing the quantization of the energy states of a molecule, it may be possible to make a detector that releases a signal after coming into contact with a single molecule of whatever is being detected. Such detectors could be used in airports to detect the presence of explosives and poisons.

Grigorenko admitted that it is a big challenge to start with a property and work backwards. However, he believes it is both possible and worth the effort. He finished on a hopeful note, referring yet again to the cake, saying, "Yes, we can write down some pretty accurate recipes."

Dr. Ilya Grigorenko gave his lecture as part of his application to become an Assistant Professor in the Physics Department. He obtained his Ph.D. from University of Berlin, followed by post-doctoral research at several different schools in areas of electronics and electrical engineering. His research background also includes a time at the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

BSO discusses new club tier system

Spencer Nelson
Content Manager

The first order of business for the Board of Student Organizations (BSO) was to suspend the bylaws for the BSO elections since the elections were not being properly held. The suspension was passed unopposed and consequently put off the elections until the next BSO meeting.

Second was an update on ASCSM and what they have been discussing recently, especially concerning the ASCSM elections and the RTD bus pass. However, no action or discussion was brought up over any of these issues.

Following was details on the BSO Leadership Conference. The board holds this conference to be "a great opportunity for [club presidents and treasurers] to learn more about leadership and ways [they] can help their organizations and become a larger leader not only on campus, but also in life." It is still unsure whether it will be mandatory for club leaders to attend, but the hope is that the leaders will want to attend. The conference is planned to be held on September 26.

The next issue, which took up a very large portion of the meeting in discussion, was the new tier system proposed for clubs. Basically, the system divides up all clubs and student organizations that are not already managed under a different system into 3 different tiers depending on the club achievements. Depending on the number of community and campus events, attendance in BSO meetings, various paperwork filled out, and the completion of a few other expectations, a club can fall into either tier 1, 2, or 3. With a higher tier number comes more benefits, maxing out at tier 3. These benefits affect a club in a wide range from monetary (higher budget caps) to accessibility (earlier reservation of Student Center for special events) to publicity (access to the yet-to-be-installed marquee).

Derek Morgan gave a presentation showing the background for the desire for the tier system. Since there are 140 student organizations, it becomes hard to manage and therefore a system of accountability is needed. Also, the tier system hopes to make the budget requests for clubs more transparent. Morgan admitted, "The entire process is very secretive." Finally, the tier system hopes to bring longevity to clubs by giving them something to work for and a way to improve their status with the school.

Several issues were brought up concerning the tier system. It was brought up that the system is really more of a restriction than a benefits structure since it is limiting more than rewarding. Previously, all clubs had equal accessibility to benefits now restricted to tiers 2 and 3. Although this may be limiting over what the clubs are used to, Morgan pointed out that, "the only right a club has is the right to assemble." The point of the tier system is not the hindrance of clubs, but rather the promotion of accountability. Therefore, restricting certain benefits allows for a more controlled system.

Another large issue was the transition. With the high number of clubs on campus, the task of switching all of them simultaneously to a new system seemed to have the potential of being chaotic. Representative Andrew Aschenbrenner stated clearly, "We are hoping that clubs shouldn't see this as much of a change." The apparent stance of the BSO was that the tier system should not be a very difficult adaptation for clubs.

On the more specific issue of advisor training, the BSO hopes that the tier system will improve relations between many of the clubs and their advisors. The tier system provides clear goals to increase the size of an organization and how to gain more benefits. With this visible, well-defined goal, clubs and advisors can increase communication in efforts to reach higher tier levels.

For a club to be in tier 3, the current proposal states a club must have a "Self-maintained [*sic*] website." The ambiguity in the wording concerned many club leaders at the meeting. Many thought a self-maintained website had to be something of high quality. However, the true expectations of this website are considerably less. Clubs already have a website through Student Life. This requirement simply asks the clubs to keep the website updated. This presented another problem though. Due to complex formatting, it is very difficult for an untrained person to regularly update the provided web page, necessitating a webmaster. The two solutions to this were either to have AC&N change the system or for the BSO to obtain its own website through which clubs can have their websites. No further deliberation was done on this though, pushing it off until another date due to the time constrictions on the meeting.

Finally was the issue of putting the new tier system into effect in time for the following year. Since the tier system places budget caps on clubs based on their tier, it was important to know the division of the clubs before the new budgets came out. However, it was decided to suspend the budgetary implementation of the tier system until the budget requests in spring 2010. The plan is to determine which tier each club is in through one-on-one meetings between the BSO and the club presidents in the fall semester. This determination will be done through a combination of past achievements and goals for the future.

With the number of concerns brought up over the tier system, some questioned if it was worth the change. Morgan approached the subject very directly, "Some of [the club leaders] have approached me the last few weeks, saying 'If the system wasn't broke, why do we need to fix it?' I clearly think it's broke."

Geek of the Week

...James Cuzella, Senior: Electrical Engineering

Andrew Ferguson
Staff Writer

[Oredigger] Do you consider yourself a geek, a nerd, neither, both, or some other title?

[James] Hmm. I would say geek.

What is one of the geekiest thing you have done in college?

Making jokes in Assembly language.

Such as?

unhook: stx $8,X+
bra unhook

Geekiest title you've ever had, like nickname?

I don't have one.

Can I call you Spike?

Yes.

When did you know you were a Geek? Describe that moment:

Probably when I was being asked by people to fix their computers and such.

And how long ago was that?

In high school.

Who are your geek heroes, and why?

I'd say HD Moore.

Who is that?

He's that guy behind the Metasploit project.

What's Metasploit?

It's a framework for building software exploits.

Does Dr. Romig know about you?

No.

Do you like Star Wars or Star Trek better?

I'd say Star Trek.

What is your favorite word?

Mungbeans.

What does that mean?

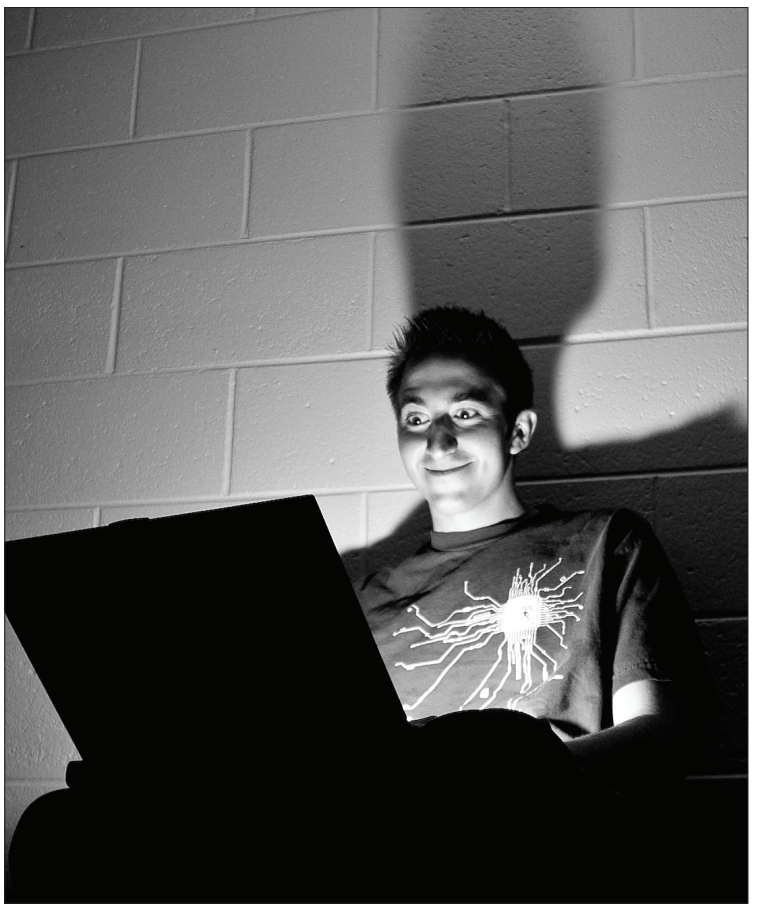
It means Mungbeans.

What is your favorite curse word?

Smeg.

What sound or noise do you love?

Silence... the sound of a good computer starting up.



ANDREW FERGUSON / OREDIGGER

What sound or noise do you hate?

Well, I have a server at home that started making a noise that sounds like a lawnmower. And I'm pretty sure that's not good.

Do you have any hobbies?

Yeah, computers. Linux. Building LED cubes, it's pretty awesome. We programmed it in assembly. It was bit-banging all over the serial interface.

What are your plans for after graduation?

Getting money.

Do you have a job?

Not lined up yet. Hint hint, employers.

If you weren't an engineer, what would you do?

If I wasn't an engineer, I would probably be doing computer science.

Do you have a favorite motto?

Trust your technolust.

How many plaid shirts do you own?

Zero.

Computer languages. Are you multilingual?

Yeah. Do you need to know all of them?

Yes.

C, C++, Assembly, HTML, JS, CSS, SQL, Perl, PHP, I did VB at one point, Pascal, and looked a little bit at Ruby.

Do you own any 20 sided die?

No, I don't, actually. It's amazing.

What's your best geek joke?

[Laughs.] Yeah, I got nothing.

What class is your favorite and why?

I'd say my favorite so far has probably been Microcomputer Architecture [EGGN 482]. That was really fun.

What about the Ratio?

It's pretty accurate.

What is the next big thing we can expect from James Cuzella?

Web site coming soon (http://www.lyraphase.com/).

To nominate a Geek of the Week, send an email to oredig@mines.edu

Ask Andrew

Andrew Aschenbrenner
Staff Writer

Dear Andrew,

I'm a male undergraduate and I recently accepted the fact that I am gay. I've felt it for awhile, but because of my religious upbringing I was afraid to come out to myself. I'm still afraid to come out to my family and friends. I'm really afraid of losing their love and support, but I feel I can't lie to them any more about who I am. Do you have any advice on how to tell them?

Signed, Closet Conundrum

Dear Conundrum,

You have made the most important step already, which is becoming comfortable with your identity. I would describe the next step as a sheep in wolf's clothing. Usually, it seems a lot more scary than it turns out to be. Though there are some actual horror stories, the people who will still respect, love, and support you after you come out to them are your true friends and family.

> Determine what you want to say in advance, and come out by explaining what your identity is and what your coming out means and doesn't mean.

Coming out can be a difficult thing to do because it is an odd subject to bring up. What some people with similar situations find helpful is a simple and less forward approach. Basically, they just stop lying. In other words, when subjects such as relationships come up, they are truthful in the conversation. This can take some of the stress out of the situation.

If you do not feel comfortable with a passive approach, I would suggest being as direct as possible. Determine what you want to say in advance, and come out by explaining what your identity is and what your coming out means and doesn't mean.

While it may seem overwhelming, try to be prepared for every situation. Before coming out to someone who may reject you, find support with someone or a group. There are plenty of people who will assist you if you need them.

Don't lose faith; coming out to those who you are close to you is an important step. Invariably, people end up much happier when they are honest with themselves and the people they care about. **Need advice? Send your questions to askandrew.oredigger@gmail.com!**

Concert in the Library

Michael Bratton

Tim Weilert
Content Manager

The CSM campus got a little classier Friday as Michael Bratton & Co. performed a variety of classical pieces as part of the Arthur Lakes Library's "Concerts in the Library" series. Bratton, a Physics major, has played cello since age 11 and has been involved with a variety of classical societies and orchestras. The concert was certainly a family affair as Bratton was accompanied by his mother Terry Bratton on piano. Bratton's cello teacher Rodney Farrar and his daughter were also part of the concert.

Starting with a relatively well-known piece, Pachebel's "Canon in D," Farrar introduced the song by explaining its popularity. "This is a song you hear everywhere, from movies, television, and elevators to weddings and funerals." Rather than playing the piece with three violins, the group played an arrangement with two cellos, a violin, and piano.

Later during the set, Terry Bratton said, "This next song is one of Chopin's nocturnes. A nocturne is a song written for the evening, so everyone should come back at 8 PM. Or you could simply close your eyes." The solo piano piece was stunning as the music began to paint a picture of a beautiful European city at twilight in the minds of listeners.

A few songs later was "Kol Nidrei," an adagio on two Hebrew melodies written by Max Bruch. After the concert Bratton said, "I love this piece because we play it so much and it is a part of us." Following "Kol Nidrei" the Brattons ended the performance with "Variations on a Rococo Theme" by Tchaikovsky.

The concert certainly accomplished two things. First, it provided a soothing escape from the daily drudgery of school work and allowed for the enjoyment of some of the best music ever written. Second, Bratton's performance showed that Mines students can be skilled in more than their studies of science.

TIM WEILERT / OREDIGGER

E-Days Ultimate Miner Competition

Chris Schauffele
Guest Columnist

Do you think you have what it takes to be this years CSM Ultimate Miner? Maybe this will help you to decide: cash and prizes are being offered for some of the events. If you aren't feeling up to competing, there will be opportunities for people to try the events in a non-competitive manner.

Here is the skinny on the when and where.

WHERE: North Freshman Parking Lot.

WHEN: Saturday April 4

TIME: Registration begins at 9 AM, competition starts at 10 AM sharp. Non-competitors can show up anytime, but after noon would be best.

WHO: Competitive categories for both Women and Men. Anyone who would like to try the events is also welcome.

EVENTS: Jackleg Drilling, Hand Steeling, Hand Mucking, Swede Saw, Spike Driving, and Gold Panning.

GEAR: Be sure to wear long pants, long sleeve shirt, and boots. This is a mining event and you will get dirty. Safety gear, ear plugs, and safety glasses will be provided.

This year's competition has some great corporate sponsorships, big shout out to: Newmont Mining, Atkinson Construction, Gold Corp., Sandvick, and Lafarge. The competition will be taken more seriously then in years past, since there is cash on the line and therefore registration and start times will be strictly enforced. So, fight off that hangover, sleep depravation, and whatever else is lingering from the night before, and come on down to the freshman parking lot for the event.

Campus Benefactors: Lakes

Alec Westerman
Staff Writer

To an average Mines student, "Arthur Lakes" suggests studying, reading, and maybe playing on the computers. To a Mines student, it's just the name of the library. But to someone interested in paleontology or economic geology in the Colorado foothills, the name conjures a very different picture – that of Mines Geology professor and Geology Museum creator Arthur Lakes.

Arthur Lakes was born in western England in 1844. He studied at Queens College in Oxford, where he first became fascinated by reptile fossils, including dinosaurs. In 1865, he emigrated to Canada, where he lived for a few years. However, by the late 1860s, Lakes arrived in Colorado and was hired at the institution which would become the Colorado School of Mines.

After several years of teaching English, Latin, and Drafting, Lakes found an additional calling: preaching. In 1874, Lakes began proselytizing around the foothills and by 1877, became Morrison's Episcopal minister.

According to a plaque in the building named after him, "Lakes is best remembered for discovering the Jurassic dinosaurs at Morrison in 1877… [he] was 33 years old when he found the Morrison dinosaur bones." However, his discoveries did not end there; he is responsible for discovering the fossils of dinosaur ridge and discoveries at Como Bluff. These achievements propelled Lakes to become one of Mine's first Geology professors, a position which he held from 1882 to 1891.

Lakes was also successful in the industry of economic geology. Credit can be given to Lakes for publishing much on the subject of geologic resources along the Front Range. Lakes eventually became a very successful Mining Engineering Consultant and was editor of "MINES and Minerals" from 1895 to 1904.

After he had contributed 40 years of his life to teaching, preaching, and discovering dinosaur bones, Lakes retired to British Columbia. He died there in 1919. In 2005, he was elected to the Jefferson County Hall of Fame.

BREE WALTMAN / OREDIGGER

Mines Internet Radio

Eric Earley
Staff Writer

In a small room behind the Oredigger office, students are given the opportunity to broadcast their music and ideas to the world. Conceptualized in spring of 2005 as an EPICS project and instated in fall of the same year, Mines Internet Radio, or MIR for short, has been streaming their shows for the past 4 years. Currently, there are about 20 music DJs with weekly shows, as well as 3 sports DJs that attend and narrate CSM's football and basketball games over the internet.

People join MIR for a multitude of reasons, such as having a time to relax or just to enjoy playing music for listeners. "When I was in high school, I wanted to do a radio show," MIR president Mike Lukacovic said. "I came to Mines… and I did some searching, and somehow managed to find out they had a radio station." Most DJs had first heard about MIR at the Celebration of Mines, and looked into it from there. When asked about what made being a DJ fun, Lukacovic told us, "I really like music. You have this time set aside in your week, every week, where you don't do work. It's scheduled into your schedule, and it forces you to take a break." Other members said that it makes them go through their music catalogs and find new songs to play, or to go out and find new bands entirely.

Mines Internet Radio is currently working on expanding their program by increasing both the number of listeners and the number of DJs, while sports broadcasters are pushing to do their show for more games. The sports broadcast is the most listened to, with an average of 20 to 30 computers listening in per show. The music shows, on the other hand, get an average of 2 to 6 computers per show. To date, the record number of listeners for the sports broadcast is about 85, while the record for music broadcasts is near 35. The club also has a long term goal of starting up an AM station to increase the number of listeners, although this would eliminate friends and family in other cities and states from the listener pool. As a shorter term goal, however, the organization is currently working on raising money to counter the spike in licensing fees.

MIR hosted a bake sale in the Student Center last week. All proceeds will go towards paying off the FCC's licensing fees for the studio. The total amount they needed is about $1400 or else they will shut down.

As for being a DJ, there are no previous experience or skill requirements for being one, and the club will accept anybody that wants to do a show. "It's not limited to just music shows," Lukacovic tells students who are thinking about becoming a DJ. "You can play whatever music you want, but it's not limited to music. If you want to talk about movies for an hour, we don't care." For more information on Mines Internet Radio and for a program schedule, go to radio.mines.edu.

TECH BREAK

Web hosts these days...

Ian Littman, Tech Break Columnist

To the casual reader, the following might seem more like an opinion piece than a mere features and news column. That casual reader would probably be right, though those in search of news and information should still read on, especially if they're in a club or organization who doesn't have an up-to-date website or want a website themselves. Unless, of course, the alternative action would be to use the newspaper as tinder for a life-sustaining fire to combat a blizzard of the same magnitude as last Friday.

Blizzards, snow plows and ice-encased cars aside, the technology in question is that which powers the websites of the internet. I've already covered what makes the internet itself tick, but the content-rich endpoints are just a bit more important than the pipes through which the content flows. That's why, when a provider advertised "Unlimited everything," you should run as fast as you can in the opposite direction, if the provider in question is providing web hosting.

Granted, such hosts (HostGator, BlueHost/HostMonster, DreamHost) may offer acceptable performance for your personal website, your personal website doesn't need unlimited resources; it probably only chews up a few megabytes (or maybe a dozen gigabytes) of storage and a few hundred megabytes (or a few dozen gigabytes) of bandwidth. Generally speaking, the "unlimited" hosts try to cut costs in every way possible, so they're still making a profit on you, and a somewhat handsome one, even if you paid a mere $3.95 per month for service during a limited-time promotion on a 36-month term for a grand total of over $140 at once.

That's why, when a provider advertised "Unlimited everything," you should run as fast as you can in the opposite direction, if the provider in question is providing web hosting.

There's also the problem of overselling. It's a bit more insidious when a provider (such as 1&1, my personal site's previous web host) actually puts specific limits on bandwidth and disk space, but it's easy to figure out that there's no such thing as unlimited disk space or bandwidth. HostGator and BlueHost use garden-variety servers, with a few hard disks in them that will eventually max out capacity-wise. The same applies with bandwidth; companies don't have an "unlimited" pipe.

The problem you run into with such hosts is when you or one of the other several hundred people on your server (HostMonster averages 1300 domains hosted on a server, give or take a few hundred), decides he wants to use the supposedly unlimited service. The result: you run into limits. You're using too much CPU (and get shut off), you're using too many MySQL threads (and get shut off), or, due to this happening with you or another person on the same server, things slow down or come to a screeching halt. Or you've violated the host's (usually rather strict) terms of service in another way. A further problem is that there's no way to avoid this suspension unless the provider offers an upgrade to "more unlimited," "semi-dedicated" service. At which point you aren't paying just a few dollars per month for hosting anymore.

Then there are the outright nasty hosts who either don't know how to run their servers or somehow mess with your site to get more money from it than you paid for. Or they just plain have bad customer service. JustHost (who overrides "page not found" errors with affiliate link pages) and LunarPages (which just has horrible customer service) are two culprits. IXWebHosting is a third; horror story after horror story of hack after hack have been posted online. Then there are the "umbrella" companies who have bought out dozens of hosts in the effort to make sure customers defect to another branch of the same tree rather than leaving altogether when service sours.

There's also the fact that such hosts generally have the most lavish affiliate programs. BlueHost gives $65 per referral, DreamHost $97 and HostGator as much as $125. They may give you the service you need, but don't trust "host review" sites; they probably stand to make a hefty commission on your buying an account from their "top reviewed host."

So, where to turn?

If you don't mind paying in advance for performance you may or may not get, DreamHost and BlueHost/HostMonster (same company) are fine. HostGator is a bit better; despite their blatant overselling, they still get high marks on unbiased forums like WebHostingTalk.com. Or, for better service, choose a host whose plans are limited. These hosts tend to be smaller, so there's also the side benefit of being able to reach the guy(s) in charge quickly when there's a problem. On the small end of the scale is PruHosting.org; I have an account with them for a mere 99 cents... per year (domain names are extra). For bigger needs, HwkHost, DowntownHost, Aquarius Storage, and MDDHosting are all good choices; my personal site, ***The Oredigger*** website, and the new ASCSM site are all hosted with MDDHosting, so for a peek at their performance, just visit one of those sites. They're definitely not unlimited in disk space and bandwidth, but they do a very good job at servicing their customers and keeping their servers lightly loaded enough that everyone's site loads quickly and stays online for months at a time with no slowdowns or outages.

For better service, choose a host whose plans are limited.

One last thing: DreamHost ***is*** good for a few things; if you want to host a WordPress blog, a Drupal site, a phpBB forum, a wiki, and an installation of Google Apps and GMail, they are currently testing out DreamHost Apps, a free service (plus the cost of a domain name, should you choose to get one) that does all of this. I'm trying it out right now and, though I'll stick with "real" shared hosting for myself, it might be a low-maintenance way for clubs and organizations to get an up-to-date site live, should the Board of Student Organizations tier system require it. DreamHost Apps can be found at dreamhostapps.com; add a ".com" to other hosts' brand names to land your browser at their sites.

Engineering Days 2009

ANDREW FERGUSON / OREDIGGER

Diamond AnniversarE-Days

75 years & counting

E-Days Carnival

This year, the E-Day's committee has decided to put on a Carnival. It occurs on Friday from 3 PM - 6 PM on the North IM Fields. Many of the fun traditional carnival games will be run by various student organizations and local businesses who have decided to sponsor the game for the entirety of the carnival. Also, there will be other activities to do, including a mechanical bull, Velcro wall, hammer and bell, and many more. Pan-Hellenic has also decided to sponsor a hot wing-eating competition so there should be plenty of excitement provided from just that event alone. Food and beverages will be provided during the event as well.

ANDREW FERGUSON / OREDIGGER

E-Days Concert: Flobots and Filthy T

The E-days concert is perhaps one of the proudest and loudest traditions kept during the springtime festival. In recent years, the concert has featured national acts such as Eve 6, Unwritten Law, Everclear, Goldfinger, and Flogging Molly. This year's show is a celebration of homegrown Colorado bands Flobots and Filthy T.

Flobots, an alternative rock/hip-hop group, got their start in 2005 mixing music with social commentary. Developing an entirely unique sound, the Flobots combine deep lyrics with traditional rock, hip-hop, viola, and a horn section in a way that is entertaining and thought-provoking. Breaking onto the national scene, the Flobots hit single "Handlebars" has seen radio play in all major U.S. markets and was performed by the group on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*.

The opening act for the E-days concert is another local band that has specific connections to the Mines campus. Filthy T is the combined work of rapper/producer Ben Hedman and songwriter/guitarist Joe Barnholt. As a rap-rock duo, the group has been creating music since they first met at Denver's East High School. Since then, Joe graduated from Mines and Ben began at Harvard Law School.

For any person who is interested in hearing "the next big thing," look no further than the 2009 E-days concert. Both bands will undoubtedly put on an exciting and unique show that will entertain people of any musical taste.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FILTHY T AND FLOBOTS

ANDREW FERGUSON / OREDIGGER

Death From Below and Jamie Lissow

Diamond AnniversarE-Days is approaching and there are two great comedian acts coming to wrap up the festivities at 7:00 Saturday April 4. Opening for the show is the group Death From Below, which consists of Dan Sully and Tim Stafford, who bring a creative twist to comedy by incorporating both poetry and hip hop into their comedic act. Following Death From Below is the standup comedian Jamie Lissow. He's made appearances on The Late Late Show with Craig Kilbourne, NBC's Late Friday, The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, and is a proud Star Search loser. In February 2005, *Campus Activities* Magazine nominated Jamie for Campus Performer of the Year and in September of 2005, he taped for Comedy Central's Premium Blend in NYC. Jamie Lissow has been called "The best writer since Seinfeld," and "Adam Sandler without the guitar." Doors to the show open at 6:30, so get excited and finish off the E-Days celebration with some laughs.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DEATH FROM BELOW AND JAMIE LISSOW

New and refurbished events

Camp out

In past years, the E-days kick-off party has been a celebration with games and late night activities to get everyone pumped for an unforgettable weekend. This year, we're trying something new. Following the traditional fireworks display on Brooks Field, students will gather at about 10 PM on the North IM Field for an all night campout. With tents lining the field, fire pits blazing in the parking lot, and fun activities planned over the course of the night, it should be a night to remember.

Pi Run Relay Race

How much do you love pi? Do you have any friends that love pi too? If so, come participate in the first ever Pi Run Relay Race. Registration begins at 2:00 PM on Saturday on the IM fields. Team size is limited to 3 people, so choose yours wisely. The race will begin at 2:15. The team with the fastest time will receive a Village Inn gift card.

Dance

Do you like to dance? If so, come to the E-Days dance on Saturday night from 10 PM to Midnight in ballroom C of the Student Center. In past years, the E-Days dance was a huge thing, and we are hoping to restore it to its former glory. So bring your friends and have a good time!

SCVNGR Hunt

SCVNGR Hunt is a free, interactive text-message based scavenger hunt. During a SCVNGR Hunt, you will receive clues and challenge questions through your phone. Solve these clues with your teams and text back the correct location, picture, or answer. Remember, the better or funnier the answer, the more points your team will get. All weekend long we will give teams clues, so make sure you are out and about during all of the E-days weekend to get the right answer and possibly win some prizes.

ANDREW FERGUSON / OREDIGGER

E-Days Schedule of Events

Thursday, April 2

9:00 – 9:30 pm — Fireworks Show (Brooks Field)

9:30 pm on — Camp-out (North M Field)
Rain Site: Steinhauer Field House

Friday, April 3

8:00 – 11:30 am — Ore-cart Pull (Meet at M Field)

11:30 am – 1:00 pm — Proclamation and Lunch (Capitol, East Steps)

3:00 – 6:00 pm — Carnival (North M Field), wing-eating contest, novelties, booths, BBQ, etc.

7:00 pm — Concert (Steinhauer Fieldhouse)
Filthy T, Flobots
(doors open at 6:00 pm)

Saturday, April 4

11:00 am — Cardboard Boat Race (Clear Creek)

11:00 am – 5:00 pm — Car Show (Lot B)

12:00 – 3:00 pm — Field Events (North M Field) Relay races, Mr. Big Digger, trebuchet, BBQ, etc

7:00 – 8:30 pm — Comedians (Bunker Auditorium)

9:00 pm — Dance and Texas Hold 'Em Tourney (Student Center)

ANDREW FERGUSON / OREDIGGER

Alcohol Poisoning: What you need to know

Anne Wilfong
Guest Columnist

E-Days are upon us, and what a great time to let loose and party before buckling down for finals and thesis defending! Beer and booze will be flowing liberally, and who can resist the temptation to drink up, especially if the weather stays warm.

Drinking to excess can cause myriad problems, from high-risk behavior (drinking and driving, unsafe sex, and property damage) to the worst possible outcome—death from alcohol poisoning. Most often, excessive drinking leads to drunkenness, which we've all seen and laughed about.

But it's no laughing matter. In fact, it can be very stressful if you are the sober one taking care of a drunk friend or roommate. And there's nothing funny about the level of drunkenness that leads to vomiting, and ultimately the inhalation of the vomit that can lead to asphyxiation and death. And there's nothing funny about the level of drunkenness that poisons the respiratory center of the brain. This, too, can lead to death.

Knowing the dangers of alcohol poisoning, how to recognize alcohol poisoning, and knowing what steps to take in the event of poisoning can help you, the sober one, avoid feeling responsible for a potentially bad outcome. And this same knowledge can help you, the drinker, to be aware of the danger you're putting yourself in, before you get to the point where you can no longer help yourself. The following information is from www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov.

What happens to your body:

Alcohol is a central nervous system depressant. That means the involuntary reflex of breathing is compromised. And the gag reflex, which normally prevents choking, may be absent. Too much alcohol can totally inhibit these vital reflexes, resulting in a fatality.

Vomiting occurs after drinking excessive amounts of alcohol because alcohol is an irritant to the stomach lining. Choking can occur, which can lead to death by asphyxiation, especially in an unconscious person.

Even after someone has stopped drinking, the blood alcohol content (BAC) can continue to rise. So, just because your roommate has passed out doesn't mean the danger has passed. The alcohol in the stomach and intestine will continue to enter the bloodstream. Do not assume this person will be safe by "sleeping off" the alcohol!

Critical signs of alcohol poisoning:

Mental confusion, stupor, coma, or a person cannot be roused

Vomiting

Seizures

Slow breathing (fewer than eight breaths per minute)

Irregular breathing (10 or more seconds between breaths)

Hypothermia (low body temperature), bluish skin color, paleness

What to do if you suspect someone has alcohol poisoning:

Know the above danger signals

Do not wait for all symptoms to be present

Know that a person who has passed out may die

If there is ANY suspicion of an alcohol overdose, call 911 for help. Do not try to guess the level of drunkenness.

What happens if alcohol poisoning goes untreated:

Victim chokes on his or her own vomit

Breathing slows, becomes irregular, or stops

Heart beats irregularly or stops

Hypothermia

Hypoglycemia with can lead to seizures

Untreated severe dehydration and electrolyte imbalance from vomiting can lead to seizures, permanent brain damage, or death.

Even if a victim of alcohol poisoning survives, an alcohol overdose can lead to irreversible brain damage. Rapid binge drinking (which happens in large groups, often on a dare) is particularly dangerous, because the victim can ingest a fatal amount of alcohol before becoming unconscious.

DO NOT be afraid to seek help for someone who has had too much to drink! Don't worry about embarrassment or anger from your friend later. It is far better to be safe than sorry in a potentially life-threatening situation.

A Snapshot of Annual High-Risk College Drinking Consequences:

The consequences of excessive and underage drinking affect virtually all college campuses, college communities, and college students, whether they choose to drink or not.

Death: 1,700 college students between the ages of 18 and 24 die each year from alcohol-related unintentional injuries, including motor vehicle crashes (Hingson et al., 2005).

Injury: 599,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are unintentionally injured under the influence of alcohol (Hingson et al., 2005).

Assault: More than 696,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are assaulted by another student who has been drinking (Hingson et al., 2005).

Sexual Abuse: More than 97,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are victims of alcohol-related sexual assault or date rape (Hingson et al., 2005).

Unsafe Sex: 400,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 had unprotected sex and more than 100,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 report having been too intoxicated to know if they consented to having sex (Hingson et al., 2002).

Academic Problems: About 25 percent of college students report academic consequences of their drinking including missing class, falling behind, doing poorly on exams or papers, and receiving lower grades overall (Engs et al., 1996; Presley et al., 1996a, 1996b; Wechsler et al., 2002).

Health Problems/Suicide Attempts: More than 150,000 students develop an alcohol-related health problem (Hingson et al., 2002) and between 1.2 and 1.5 percent of students indicate that they tried to commit suicide within the past year due to drinking or drug use (Presley et al., 1998).

Drunk Driving: 2.1 million students between the ages of 18 and 24 drove under the influence of alcohol last year (Hingson et al., 2002).

Vandalism: About 11 percent of college student drinkers report that they have damaged property while under the influence of alcohol (Wechsler et al., 2002).

Property Damage: More than 25 percent of administrators from schools with relatively low drinking levels and over 50 percent from schools with high drinking levels say their campuses have a "moderate" or "major" problem with alcohol-related property damage (Wechsler et al., 1995).

Police Involvement: About 5 percent of 4-year college students are involved with the police or campus security as a result of their drinking (Wechsler et al., 2002) and an estimated 110,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are arrested for an alcohol-related violation such as public drunkenness or driving under the influence (Hingson et al., 2002).

Alcohol Abuse and Dependence: 31 percent of college students met criteria for a diagnosis of alcohol abuse and 6 percent for a diagnosis of alcohol dependence in the past 12 months, according to questionnaire-based self-reports about their drinking (Knight et al., 2002).

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Scoreboard

Information courtesy of Mines Athletics

Mar. 22, 2009 – Metropolitan State College of Denver defeated Colorado School of Mines by the score of 7-4 in Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) baseball action on Sunday afternoon at Darden Field in Golden.

The Colorado School of Mines men's and women's outdoor track & field teams were both picked to finish fourth in the 2009 Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) Outdoor Track & Field Preseason Poll. Kiera Benson, Mark Husted, Mack McLain, and Melanie Peddle all earned Preseason All-RMAC honors.

CSM took three of four games at Adams State on Saturday, March 21 and Sunday, March 22. Mines and ASC split a pair of games on Saturday as Mines took game one by a score of 6-1 and the Grizzlies won game two, 14-2. On Sunday, CSM won both games in five inning contests, 10-0 and 13-5. The Orediggers currently rank second in NCAA Division II in doubles per game (2.21) and fifth in team batting average (.359).

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March gets a little less mad

Matthew Pusard
Staff Writer

The NCAA basketball tournament has always been synonymous with Cinderella teams making waves like Villanova in 1985, George Mason in 2006, and Davidson in 2008. This year, the wildest thing about the tournament has been the lack of a surprise team going far.

People whose brackets were banking on the high seeded teams remain relatively intact as all four #1 seeds, two #2 seeds, and two #3 seeds remain as part of the Elite Eight. The closest thing to a surprise was 12th ranked Arizona earning a Sweet Sixteen berth before falling to Louisville. Arizona had a rough road to the NCAA tournament, losing their legendary coach Lute Olsen to a sudden retirement for health-related reasons right at the season. Nevertheless, the team persevered and was one of the last teams to be selected for the tournament before beating 5th seed Cleveland and 13th seed Cleveland State.

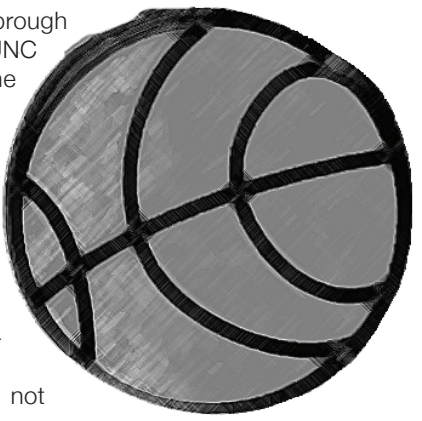
The most fun game of the tournament may thus far may have featured third-ranked Missouri taking down last year's near-champions, Memphis.

The most fun game of the tournament may thus far may have featured third-ranked Missouri taking down last year's near-champions, Memphis, in a 102-91 shootout in which Missouri led by as much as 24. Memphis prided itself on having one of the nation's top defenses, letting up 57.4 points per game, albeit in the weak Conference USA. Missouri made an example out of them, showing how much the squad has improved over last year's 16-16 season.

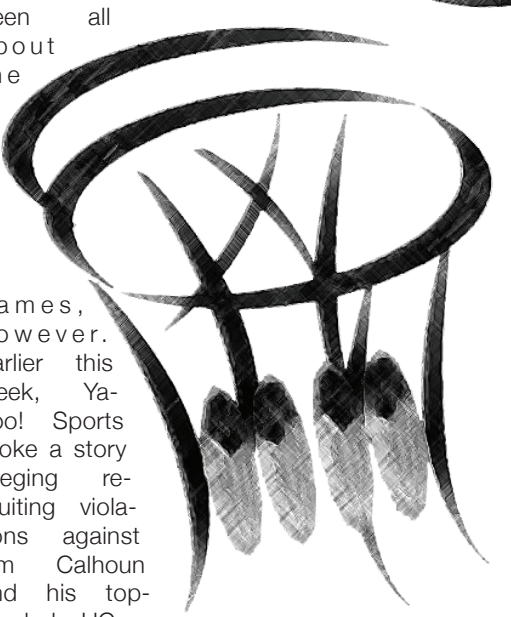
The biggest highlight of the tournament has been the big name players shining under the spotlight. UConn's 7-foot-3-inch center Hasheem Thabeet, a sure fire first round pick in June's NBA draft, dominated the team's Sweet Sixteen against Purdue, raking in 15 rebounds to go with 15 points, four blocks, and holding the Boilermakers to making just 36% of their shots.

Meanwhile, Oklahoma's Blake Griffin took out Jonny Flynn and the Syracuse Orange, figuratively and literally. Near the end of the first half of their Sweet Sixteen game, Flynn, who led Syracuse to a tremendous six overtime win just a few weeks ago, tried to take a charge from Griffin only to get steamrolled and called for a blocking foul. This seemed to epitomize how the game went for the Orange as Griffin collected 30 points, 14 rebounds, and an 84-71 win for the Sooners.

"Psycho T" Tyler Hansbrough and Ty Lawson have led UNC to 3 easy victories in the tournament to make the Tar Heels the last remaining team from 2008's Final Four. As the preseason favorite to win the tournament, the Tar Heels coasted into the Elite Eight in the likely last college season for their superstars.



The tournament has not been all about the games, however. Earlier this week, Yahoo! Sports broke a story alleging recruiting violations against Jim Calhoun and his top-seeded UConn Huskies. The report found 1,565 phone and text communications between team representatives and a former recruit, Nate Miles. This is in clear violation of NCAA rules which allow one phone call per month to recruits. The report has brought a lot of negative press onto Jim Calhoun, who has coached Connecticut to two NCAA titles, and could result in sanctions and penalties, like losing scholarships, against the team. At the very least, the report provides a distraction during the most critical portion of Connecticut's season.



The tournament may have been a major disappointment to those fans who live for the shocking upsets, but giving the tournament's top players more time to showcase their talents should serve as a nice consolation prize though.

MIR
MinesInternetRadio
radio.mines.edu
Find Your Show

MIR Needs YOUR Help!
Check Us Out @ E-Days!

Campout: 50-50 Drawing
Carnival: T-Shirt Drawing
Field Events: Grand Prize Drawing

RADIO.MINES.EDU

Student Recreation Center encourages students

Anand Erdenebileg
Staff Writer

The Mines Recreation Center has an atmosphere and spirit of students challenging their physical systems. Throughout the building, students work on their personal development and health exercises. The twenty-month-old Student Recreation Center, with its many programs and facilities, has become a perfect place for students to study, socialize, and play.

According to Clay Brown, the director of the Student Recreation Center, the Rec Center offers Intramural Sports, such as men's and women's basketball, volleyball, and others. Intramural Sports initiate approximately 5000 instances of student participation. Forty different games are offered each year, along with a number of club sports such as bowling, skiing, and soccer.

Also operated from the Student Rec Center is the Outdoor Recreation Center (ORC). The ORC organizes camping, skiing, backpacking, and other trips. During the spring break, the ORC took students on a backpacking trip to Canyonlands National Park in Southern Utah. Another group went to Costa Rica for trekking, rafting, surfing, and snorkeling, among other activities. It also offers low rentals on kayaks, tents, snowboards, skis, mountain/road bikes at tremendously cheap prices, for the CSM community.

The Aquatic program situated in the Student Rec Center offers students the chance to swim. Between classes, students can stop by the swimming pool. A new program being offered allows a student to keep track of how much they swim, giving prizes to high achievers. If a student swims two miles by the end of the semester, they could win a T-shirt. Seven miles gets a student seven free smoothies and eleven miles awards two free dinners at the Slate Café.

The Rec Center also offers flexible Yoga and fitness courses coordinated by professional trainers. The hours vary and they are often free! The fitness center often fills up with students everyday around noon and later in the afternoon.

With all of these opportunities, it's no wonder the Student Recreation Center suggests to its members to "Get out and Play!"

A theory on human efficiency

JT Foss
Staff Writer

Can't escape entropy.

It doesn't matter if we're talking thermodynamics, finance, or housekeeping. Order cannot be maintained without the investment of energy.

And to mankind, energy is gold. We're lazy and wasteful.

I present you the idea of Human Efficiency.

We, as a species, can become more efficient as a whole so that we can achieve a higher level of existence.

As technological development decreases the amount of effort necessary to survive, we have energy to pursue leisure and scientific progress with greater voracity. Once, we spent all of our time growing crops and hunting so that we would not starve; now we can sustain ourselves by working merely 20 hours weekly.

This trend ain't stoppin'. Considering that scientific advancement allows us to be more efficient with our time and resources, we are able to accomplish more using less. We're not circumventing energy conservation; we're just being more intelligent.

Isn't it possible that technology could allow us to sustain ourselves by working one hour a week? Would that not give us more time to devote to recreation and further scientific advancement?

With that degree of efficiency, everyone could have more of what they want (speaking materially), and fewer people would be poor or hungry. How's that for social revolution?

Though there's value in hard work and labor, I have faith that the evolution of morality will be able to compensate. Government, economy, and culture adapt with mankind, so long as we bring them with us.

It's difficult to argue that efficiency is not beneficial to mankind. Were we able to struggle less and have more of the things that promote happy and healthy living, we would likely be happier and healthier.

This level of efficiency could make us all fat slobs, but like every other power of technology comes the danger of its misuse. We have to ensure we act ethically now, and that won't change.

And you never know, we could power our society by exercising (kinetic energy).

So how do we achieve this?

We could wait for technology to advance us to this state of near-optimum efficiency.

However, I firmly believe this sort of "utopia" will require more than simple technological efficiency; we must also be efficient socially, culturally, and personally.

Presently, many people do not strive to benefit the "greater good." Our capitalistic nature compels us to strive for personal gain, even if that hurts others.

Humanity's selfish nature: It's why you get cut off driving to work. It's why you find dog poop all over the park.

Man has always been this way. We choose war over peace. AIG fat cats jeopardize our entire financial system for personal gain, and then use emergency government cash for their own bonuses.

They apparently do not possess the moral wherewithal to make decisions that promote the efficiency of the over-arching social structure.

Yet this flaw is not insurmountable.

Evolution and natural selection support this selfish mentality, but the presence of natural selection in our modern society has become debatable due to the advent of medicine and government.

Social norms have transformed from killing enemy tribes to competing economically; I'd say we're capable of further metamorphosis. We have the ability to interact peacefully, and if we had nothing more to compete or fight for…

What this means on the individual level: adopt the goal of finding ways to accomplish what you want in ways that are also beneficial to those around you.

Take a second, while you relax and talk with your friends after eating a meal at your favorite restaurant, to put your dirty napkin on your plate. This way, the busboy won't have to, and his job will be a tiny bit easier.

Then, he'll have a little more time to do other things (aside from cleaning up someone else's mess), and he'll be a little bit happier. If he's happier and has more time, he's more likely to spread his happiness and efficiency to others.

Such a tiny gesture of goodwill towards mankind can have a far-reaching impact.

Through the environmentalist movement, proactive individuals devoted time and energy to not only enacting legislation that ensures environmental responsibility, but also to establish paradigms that have propagated throughout our culture.

Though industry still causes environmental problems, I feel that we, as a people, are commonly working towards a more sustainable future.

By simply not littering, you're contributing to a cause that benefits everyone. It's not that hard, and takes less of your time than TV does.

Likewise, Human Efficiency. Suck it up and be nice to someone once in a while and you'll have done something progressive, rather than detrimental.

Most people aren't wholly wicked, so a strong enough movement towards such an idea could spread easily. This never worked before, but times and technology have changed extraordinarily. This goal is becoming more attainable.

And of course there will always be freeloaders, but they are unavoidable without adamant government (or societal) intervention. Because people desire happiness, it's possible for the good to outweigh the bad.

I understand this thought is pretty wistful, maybe even cheesy, but it is actually possible. It requires a tiny bit of faith in mankind, but I believe, in lieu of our many great accomplishments, we deserve such a vote of confidence.

This is assuming, however, that we actually can overcome entropy. Consider that a challenge.

Tim's two ¢ents

Concert Etiquette

Tim Weilert
Content Manager

It's finally here, that glorious week that makes everyone on campus proud to be an Oredigger. E-days stands out as one of the greatest traditions this school has to offer, and in order to help ensure that everybody has a good time this year I've drafted a few rules of etiquette relating specifically to concerts. I have gone to more shows than I can count, everything from hardcore and punk mosh-fests to acoustic coffee shop performances and occasional trips to the symphony.

1. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. The 'golden rule' couldn't have a better practical application than at a concert. Case 1: When at the symphony, you wouldn't want to be bothered by people talking on their cellphones during the entire show, so show the same respect to others. Case 2: Imagine you're at Ozzfest and you've been moshing pretty hard. If you fall down in the pit, you'd want people to help you back up.

2. Don't get too drunk. It is E-days. There will be alcohol. Don't be stupid about it. Having a few drinks before (and during) a show is great, but if you become belligerent and rude you easily break rule #1. Furthermore, your friends will likely have to step in at some point, which would be inconsiderate to them.

3. Crowd Surfing & Moshing. I've been on both ends of this great American past-time. Crowd surfing is fun, but only if you're at the kind of show where it is acceptable. Many venues ban crowd surfing because it can lead to serious injury. To avoid injury (to you and the crowd) don't crowd surf if you don't think people will be able to hold your weight plus 50 pounds.

As far as moshing is concerned, it is acceptable, but only in certain circumstances. If you're at a heavy metal show, go ahead. If you're at a Hannah Montana concert you might be escorted off the premises. As far as moshing technique is concerned, don't try to harm others, feel free to push, kick, jump around and do moshing-types-of-moves, but don't use it as front to beat up that guy who's been giving you the crazy-eyes all night.

Above all, use common sense. Whatever the situation happens to be, be considerate to other concertgoers and realize that everyone is there to have a good time.

Editorials Policy

The Oredigger is a designated public forum. Editors have the authority to make all content decisions without censorship or advance approval and may edit submitted pieces for length so long as the original meaning of the piece is unchanged. Opinions contained within the Opinion Section do not necessarily reflect those of Colorado School of Mines or The Oredigger. The Oredigger does not accept submissions without identification and will consider all requests for anonymity in publication on a case-by-case basis. Submissions less than 300 words will receive preference.

Minds at Mines

Snow day at Mines!

Roby Brost
Staff Writer

It is perhaps not as common as the coming of spring, or even a Presidential Election, though more common, it seems, than Halley's Comet. An event of historic proportions occurred on the Mines campus. The Colorado School of Mines declared a snow day this past Thursday, March 26, 2009. It has been many years since the Colorado School of Mines has closed, or been unable to open its doors, due to snow.

Mines has long prided itself on being open for learning in all sorts of weather, but this last batch of spring weather brought with it a lot of snow. The governor of Colorado declared a state of emergency. Mines administration cancelled afternoon classes. Some common hour exams were even rescheduled. Never fear, the beautiful snow-covered campus opened the next morning. Students were most ingenious on their day off in the diverse ways they enjoyed the snow. Snowball fighting, sledding, building snowmen (and in some cases, snow monsters), as well as other diversions abounded. Of course, when hands were chilled and red, and bodies saturated through and through with the snow melt, there was homework to be done. This is, after all, an engineering school. Classes will always continue in the morning. So what else besides homework did students on the Mines campus do with their snow day?

"We had a snow day, a free day. So we thought, hell let's be engineers and be productive with it, lets build an igloo. We're trying to make it bigger right now, because it's only big enough for three people. Ideally we're hoping to fit in twelve. You know, be able to grill up some hamburgers in it… We still have a ways to go, but not too far, maybe one or two more feet. Modern Marvels was on this morning. It was all about igloo building, and kind of an inspiration. Except that we built using the pile, tamp and repeat method. They were all about cutting blocks. Over all, it's pretty slaptastic."

Killian Rubel, Geoff Grayson, Zachary Young, Pablo Mascaren

"On the snow day, we played in the snowdrifts. Jumped in, threw each other in, had fun. We also played some soccer, tackle football, had a lot of fun tripping each other into the snow. We built a snow fortress using trashcans and rolled down sorority hill without sleds."

Gregory Johnson, Bethany Behrens, Ben Schwyn

"Over the snow day, I played around on the kick run on the IM fields. I failed to land the following tricks; a front flip, a 360, and a 180 grab trick. My stack foots were not so fantastic either. I did however, manage to land some 180s and some solid grabs. It was a good day. Fun."

Lauren Zemp

"I hung out with friends, got a little drunk. On Friday though, I came out to the hill by the sororities and was trying some tricks. I tried doing some 180's. I didn't land those too well, but I didn't get hurt either, so that was a good thing. I also tried a flying squirrel jump. Found out I'm not real good at those. I tried crossing one ski over the other, and another skier came over and helped me out with that one, so I've got the motion, there just isn't enough room to land it. All in all, a pretty good day I'd say."

Michael Pauly

ALL PHOTOS ROBY BROST / OREDIGGER

Fool's Gold

"E-Days cometh."

White House Frenzy

Have they gone too far?

David Underwood
Underbelly of the Political World

Washington - Two thousand people gathered midday on the twentieth of March to celebrate the most ground-breaking event seen in Washington in many years, and what many people have called the most inspirational event in modern US history. At Michelle Obama's very own request, White House staff called John's Carpet Cleaning services to have the White House Carpets cleaned. Not just any clean, mind you, but John clean.

> At Michelle Obama's very own request, White House staff called John's Carpet Cleaning services to have the White House Carpets cleaned.

At this pivotal time in the White House, staff has also sworn to "clean not only the floors, but the toilets and showers as well. We hope for this great time to finally bring about the change we have been waiting for!" said Roger Bluff, the elderly White House serviceman who lives in a closet on the second floor.

> Thousands around the country now wait in eager expectation for the announcement of new White House curtains, and possibly even an official selection of the new flower...

The event brought people from across the country, inspired and hopeful by the magnificent sow of unadulterated, courageous cleanliness shown by the Obamas. No less than 255 news media reporters and analysts were on scene to give the American people 24 hour live coverage of the event starting 2 days in advance. A $10 Billion carpet-cleaning-bash is scheduled the rest of the month in order to commemorate the ridding of weeks of built up dirt and grime.

Legislation was also passed just this week requiring all inhabitants and visitors of the White House to "take off their shoes at the door," and "eat their snacks over the kitchen sink." Violators are now subject to severe punishments such as reading actual rejected news stories; reports so vile, so disgustingly strewn with poor grammar and meaningless jabbering they were incapable of being published, even online.

Thousands around the country now wait in eager expectation for the announcement of new White House curtains, and possibly even an official selection of the new flower to be planted in the empty pot by the stairwell to the gardener's shed. Soon to follow is the eagerly anticipated arrival of the Obama's new dog. Ever since the day has been declared a national holiday, planes, trains, and hotels have all been booked solid up to a week in advance. More news undoubtedly to follow.

Tarry Skies: An E-Days surprise

Janeen Neri
Licensed Dinosaur

An inside source has revealed the reason for the seemingly never-ending application of tar to the roofs of various campus buildings. "I will say no more than, 'E-days are going to be very interesting this year'," the insider said when asked offhandedly about the "maintenance."

Ever since the leak, speculation has made the rounds of CSM. "Obviously, they're secretly planning to finally have a 'Zomb-E days!'" said junior Bella Whitman, "I always suspected that stupid 'Diamond Anniversar-E' front was a hoax, and this clinches it." Whitman was a little unclear about what, exactly, tar had to do with zombies, however.

"That tar will actually feature in E-days?" freshman Nathan Rider asked, "I thought they just did it at this time of year to attract all those tour groups. Y'know, you catch more flies with smelly tar than with 3% acetic acid, or whatever that phrase is. It seems to be working." Rider was, of course, referring to the massive fly problem that Colorado experiences every snow day.

Alternately, said senior Peter Johannes, "the explanation is simple. This is just a way of better disguising the tar they use for the annual Passing the Torch Ceremony. Every year, the freshmen won't stop bugging us about what the tar buckets all over campus are for until we explain the PTC tradition. But then they get all skittish and hard to catch. Even when we promise them that we'll put them out before they have any permanent damage, for some reason they just don't like the idea of lighting the M."

EASY

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solution

8	4	7	3	2	9	5	6	1
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6	8	5	9	4	2	7	1	3
7	2	3	1	6	5	4	8	9
1	9	4	8	3	7	6	5	2

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EVIL

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solution

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6	5	3	9	8	4	7	1	2
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1	4	9	6	2	7	8	5	3
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8	1	7	4	9	5	3	2	6

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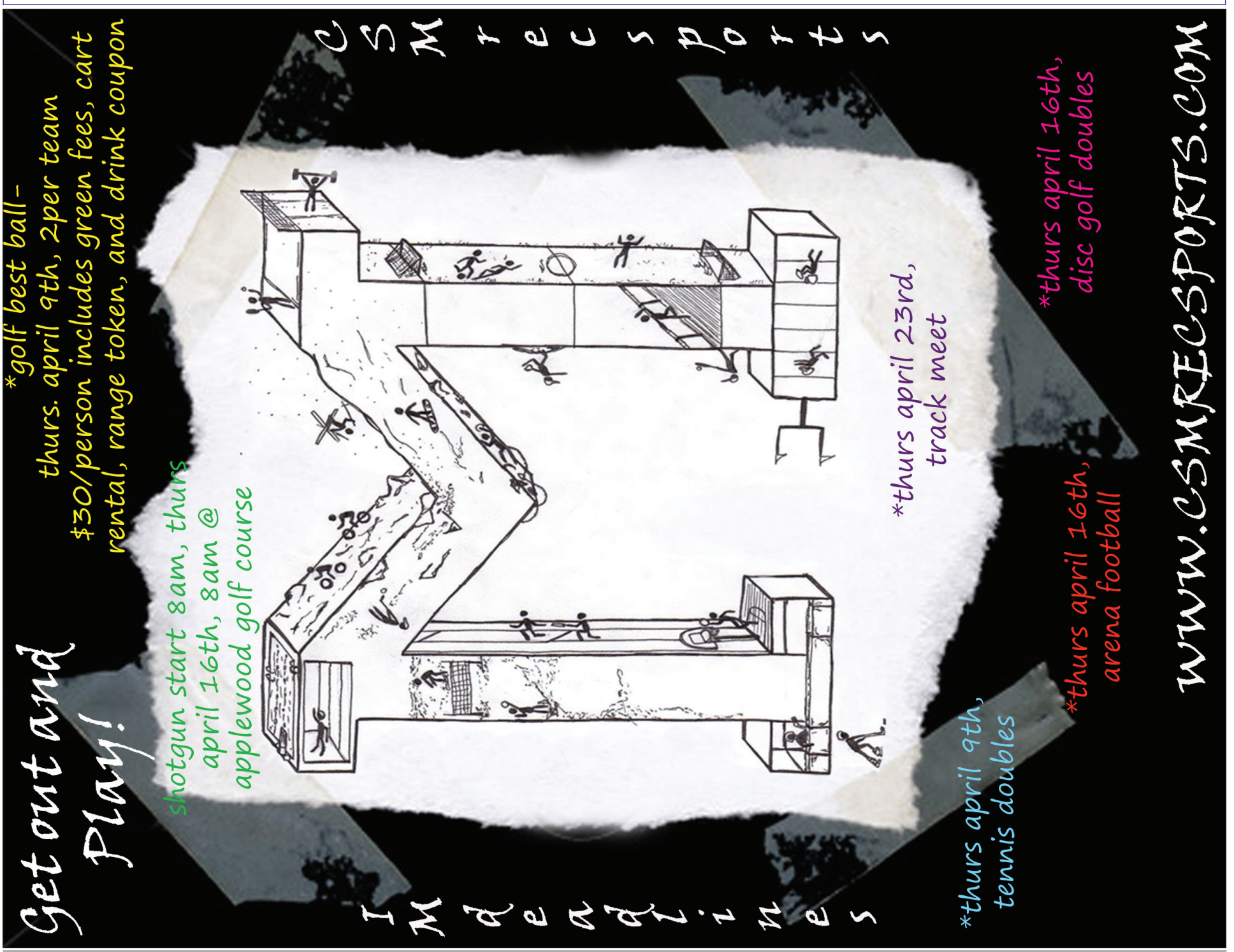

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